



Town of Groton, Connecticut

Meeting Minutes

Town Council

45 Fort Hill Road
Groton, CT 06340-4394
Town Clerk 860-441-6640
Town Manager
860-441-6630

Mayor Heather Bond Somers, Councilors Dean G. Antipas, Bruce S. Flax, Bill Johnson, Frank O'Beirne, Jr., Deborah L. Peruzzotti, Rita M. Schmidt, James L. Streeter, and Harry A. Watson

Tuesday, January 3, 2012

7:30 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

SPECIAL MEETING

I. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 by Mayor Somers.

Members Present: Mayor Somers, Councilor Antipas, Councilor Flax, Councilor Johnson, Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., Councilor Peruzzotti, Councilor Schmidt, Councilor Streeter and Councilor Watson

Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher and Office Assistant Lori Watrous.

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The Salute to the Flag was led by Kevin Trejo.

III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS & MEMORIALS

None.

IV. RECEIPT OF CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Kevin Trejo, 536 Shennecossett Road, expressed his disappointment that taxpayers will have to pay \$144,000 for the baseball field. He stated that something is but of whack'when administrators, who are the highest paid people in the school system, get raises at a higher percentage than other school system employees. Mr. Trejo announced that there will be Republican caucuses for both the City and the Town on January 12, 2011.

Andrew Parrella, 790 Eastern Point Road, stated that Councilors should not just allow things to pass because of fear of arbitration. If possible, he would like Councilors to rescind the vote on the Administrators' Contract. Mr. Parrella feels the Town should combine some positions when the middle schools are consolidated, and he would like the Fitch Middle School building to be used to centralize Town services.

Joseph Cecere, 100 Clift Street, Mystic, believes that property values in the Mystic Historic District are decreasing due to the Historic District Commission. He stated that the Commission is rude and disrespectful, and that its decisions are arbitrary. He remarked that he spent thousands of dollars to change architectural drawings, only to have the Commission change its mind. Dr. Cecere urged the Council to set term limits and develop criteria for the Historic District Commission to follow.

V. RESPONSES TO CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

None.

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

a. Approval of Minutes

2011-0254

Approval of Minutes (Town Council)

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council meeting of December 20, 2011 are hereby

accepted and approved.

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

The minutes will be finalized to include a change requested by Councilor O'Beirne.

b. Administrative Items

2011-0250 Special Trust Fund Contributions

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPECIAL TRUST FUNDS

RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby accepts contributions to the Town as follows:

Nancy Pittman - \$300.00 - Library Miscellaneous
Mary Bennett and Bill Squire - \$100.00 - Library Miscellaneous
The Pfizer Foundation Volunteer Program - \$1,000.00 - Library Miscellaneous
Hardcore Shotcrete, Inc. - \$10,000 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Christ United Methodist Church - \$258.65 - Social Services Discretionary
Betty Curry - \$50.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Dermatology Group - \$100.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Fitch Middle School - \$281.78 - Social Services Discretionary
James and Marjorie Hollister - \$25.00 - Social Services Discretionary
George Marshall - \$200.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Monsanto - \$72.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Grace Musante - \$25.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Charles Rogers - \$100.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Gladys Rogers - \$100.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Albert and Janiss Rudolph - \$100.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Submarine Base Fire Fighters - \$150.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Elaine Adams - \$200.00 - Social Services Discretionary
B.P.O. Elks Lodge No. 2163 - \$500.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Connecticut Elks Association - \$450.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Monica and Joseph Franzone - \$200.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Mystic River Homes - \$100.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Nancy Plauman - \$200.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Waterford Group - \$1,500.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Jason Wolfradt - \$130.00 - Social Services Discretionary
United States Olympic Committee - \$250.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

c. Deletions from the Town Council Referral List

2011-0253 Appointment of Town Attorney

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2011-0255 Appointment of Other Attorneys as Recommended by the Town Attorney

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

Passed The Consent Calendar

A motion was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Schmidt, to adopt the Consent Calendar, including all the preceding items marked as having been adopted on the Consent Calendar.

The motion carried unanimously

VII. COMMUNICATION REPORTS (Other than Committee Reports)

a. Town Councilors

Councilors received emails regarding the Historic District Commission, the tax assessment system, the Fitch High School baseball field, the Board of Education Administrators' contract, and the Groton Long Point salt marsh.

The Town Manager will have the Environmental Planner review the email regarding the salt marsh.

Mayor Somers and the Town Manager attended an OpSail 2012 meeting.

b. Clerk of the Representative Town Meeting

The Town Clerk noted that the RTM meets on the second Wednesday of each month when there is business. Therefore, the RTM meeting scheduled for January 11, 2012, has been cancelled. The next RTM meeting will be held on February 8, 2012, at the Senior Center.

c. Clerk of the Council

No report.

d. Town Manager

The Town Manager distributed the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) to Councilors. He noted that auditors will be at the next Committee of the Whole meeting to discuss the report. Mr. Oefinger also highlighted some of the items in the Weekly Status Report.

e. Town Attorney

No report.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Community & Cultural Development - Chairman Schmidt

No meeting, no report.

b. Economic Development - Chairman Johnson

No meeting, no report.

c. Education/Health & Social Services - Chairman Watson

No meeting, no report.

d. Environment/Energy - Chairman Peruzzotti

No meeting, no report.

e. Finance - Chairman O'Beirne

No meeting, no report.

f. Personnel/Appointments/Rules - Chairman Flax

No meeting, no report.

g. Public Safety - Chairman Streeter

No meeting, no report.

h. Public Works/Recreation - Chairman Antipas

No meeting, no report.

i. Committee of the Whole - Mayor Somers

No meeting, no report.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

2011-0253 Appointment of Town Attorney

RESOLUTION APPOINTING THE TOWN ATTORNEY

WHEREAS, the Town Council has considered the needs of the Town for legal advice, the nature of the litigation currently underway, and the cost and quality of the legal services now being provided, there be it

RESOLVED, that pursuant to Town Charter 8.2.1, Eileen Duggan of the firm of Suisman, Shapiro,

Wool, Brennan, Gray & Greenberg, P.C. is hereby appointed Town Attorney, to exercise all powers and duties of that office until her successor shall be appointed and qualified, and that the following attorneys from Suisman Shapiro may assist Attorney Duggan carrying out her duties:

Matthew Auger
Raymond Baribeault
James Berryman
Michael Blanchard
Eric Callahan
Michael Carey
Jack Collins
Jeanette Dostie
Bryan Fiengo
Robert Keville
Hinda Kimmel
Erin O'Leary

A motion was made by Councilor Streeter, seconded by Councilor Watson, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2011-0255

Appointment of Other Attorneys as Recommended by the Town Attorney

RESOLUTION APPOINTING OTHER ATTORNEYS AS RECOMMENDED BY THE TOWN ATTORNEY

WHEREAS, the Town Charter, at 8.2.2, provides that the Town Attorney may, with the approval of the Town Council, appoint attorneys to perform specialized services or otherwise to assist the Town Attorney, and

WHEREAS, it has been advantageous for the Town and for the Board of Education to have attorneys appointed for particular issues, and

WHEREAS, the Town Attorney is empowered by the Charter to recommend the terms of employment of such attorneys, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that pursuant to the recommendation of Town Attorney Duggan, the following attorneys may be appointed and continue to serve in the assignments indicated, under terms prescribed by the Town Attorney, until such time as their replacements may be approved by the Town Council:

Board of Education Attorneys (from Berchem, Moses & Devlin, P.C.)

Floyd J. Dugas
Amy Dion
Carolyn Dugas
Alicia Fabish
Michelle C. Laubin
Michelle Long
Jeff Mogan
Marsha B. Moses
Meagan Smith

Bond Counsel (from Day Pitney, LLP)

Edmund See
Judith Blank
Sam Caligiuri

Linda D'Onofrio
Doug Gillette
Adam Kasowitz
Namita Shah
Richard Wasserman

A motion was made by Councilor Johnson, seconded by Councilor Flax, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

X. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn at 7:54 p.m. was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Schmidt and so voted unanimously.

Attest:

*Betsy Moukawsher, Town Clerk
Clerk of the Council*

Lori Watrous, Office Assistant